

Editorial

Welcome again to another issue of *UpTime*. This issue marks the halfway point for our first year of publication, and things are as always looking up. I would like to remind you that *UpTime* is one of the few remaining publications solely for the CoCo and 68xxx machines. In addition, if you have a dynamite program that you would like to advertise, quarter page ads run at \$15 per issue. If you have a good idea, give it a try! But let me get on to the two important developments in the CoCo Community.

To start off, I have recently received word from Tony Podraza that the 2nd annual "Last CoCoFest!" has been finalized. You can find more information in *Upcoming Events* and also their ad on page seven. The event is going to be held at the Elgin Holidome near Chicago, and be sure to ask for the special CoCoFest! rates when you reserve your room. Two day tickets are being sold in advance and at the door, and you can receive maps and more



The Good & The Bad



information from Tony Podraza or the other contacts in the ad. I would also like to note that this year's CoCoFest! is being sponsored by the *Glenside CoCo Club of Illinois*.

And to end on a sadder note, I regret to inform you that *CoCoPro!* is going to be closing shortly. *CoCoPro!* has been a strong leader in the CoCo market and their passage will be noted in the history of the Color Computer. *CoCoPro!* helped to start *UpTime* and many thanks go to *CoCoPro!* for the service that they have given over the years. *CoCoPro!*'s products will be picked up by other distributors, and they will also be running a special software deal on their remaining stock. Write to them for more information if you are interested. I would like to wish Dave Meyers the best in his future endeavors.

- Jordan Tsvetkoff

The Doctor Is In

Every once in a while our computers may get sick. Because a CoCo doctor is expensive, home remedies are often the best cure. Several things can go wrong with a computer. This month's installment deals with treating your monitor—after all, your monitor is the link to your computer's soul.

Most monitors are very sensitive to long-term exposure to an image, even a television. Suppose you leave your monitor displaying an image while you answer a long phone call. When you return and begin typing, something appears to be "burnt" into the display screen. This problem will not do anything to the computer but is bothersome and can get worse.

That is where *screen_saver* comes in. It is a program I made recently to help eliminate the pain of screen "burn in". Because of the

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UpTime

Editor: Jordan Tsvetkoff

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Purpose: To provide information about products, services, and activities relating to the **Tandy Color Computer** and **OSK/68xxx-based machines**.

Submissions: Submissions of any form can be sent to **UpTime Submissions**, **JWT Enterprises**, 5755 Lockwood Blvd., Youngstown, OH, 44512. Please note that article/editorial submissions are preferred, although short program listings will also be considered if reimbursement is requested, please indicate in writing with the initial submission.

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popularity of OS-9, this program was written for that platform. In addition, most anyone can type it up because it is in Basic09. All you have to do is type **listing one** in Basic09 as procedure **screen_saver**. Then pack the program, and make sure your have **GFX** and **RUNB** in memory or your current execution directory.

To use the program, enter the packed program's filename from the OS9: prompt and watch it work. You might think the whole effort was a waste of time. **WRONG!** The program helps save the monitor by constantly changing the display.

"But how can I work with this program running?" That is a question a friend asked me. Well, the beauty of OS-9 is its windows. Run the screen saver from the original 32-column screen and run your other programs in a different window. By pressing <clear> you can get to the screen saver whenever you will be away from your computer.

I will be back soon with more medicine for your CoCo. Until then, keep reading **UpTime** for more ways to keep your CoCo happy.

- *Sheldon Parsons*

LISTING 1:

```
PROCEDURE Screen_Saver
DIM w,e,r,q,col:INTEGER
DIM a,b,c,d,x1,y1,x2,y2:INTEGER
RUN gfx("MODE",1,3)
RUN gfx("CLEAR")
col=1: z=1
WHILE z=1 DO
a=255 \ b=190 \ c=255 \ d=0
x1=0 \ x2=0 \ y2 = 190
IF col>1 THEN
col=0
ENDIF
FOR y1=0 to 190
RUN gfx("LINE",x1,y1,x2,y2,col)
RUN gfx("LINE",a,b,c,d,col)
b=b-1 \ c=c-1 \ x2=x2+1
NEXT y1
col=col+1
ENDWHILE
```

UPCOMING EVENTS

Middle America's Fest
March 27th (10-6pm) and 28th
(10-3pm), 1993
Ramada Inn, Des Moines, Iowa

Sponsored by:
Mid Iowa & Country CoCo

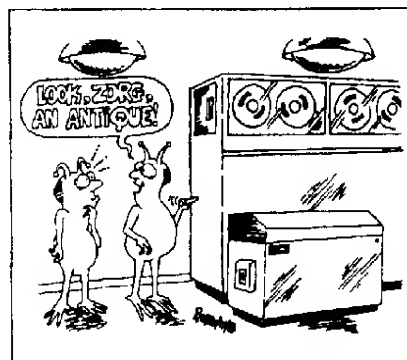
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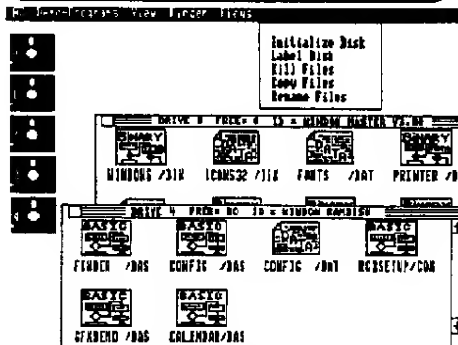
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"...it offers so many features that it is probably underpriced. I recommend this software to all CoCo3 owners." -The Rainbow February 1989

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Software Review:

CoCo Family Recorder 1.1

What it is: *Family Recorder* is a CoCo 3 Basic version of a popular MS-DOS genealogy program.

The need: Since the making of the movie "Roots", more people have become aware of their emotional need to know just who they are and where they came from. We are suddenly aware of the many questions we did not ask our grandparents and how much we did not listen when they took the time to talk with us. Into this need comes FARNASystems with the *CoCo Family Recorder*. FARNASystems has written an easy to use genealogy program that has some very nice features.

The package: When I received *Family Recorder*, the package contained two disks, one with the full-featured program and one with a truncated "demo" version. The full-featured program requires two drives while the demo uses only one drive. The disks are 35-track, single-sided. The directory is encrypted and the program is run by typing DOS <enter>. The programs are densely packed and cannot be modified without an advanced knowledge of BASIC and excellent understanding of these intricate programs. This is why the author put the protection scheme on the directory. The scheme would only slow down a person that has the skill to modify the program but would stop an unqualified person cold.

The documentation is only 14 pages. It is complete and relatively accurate. Although I did study the documentation, I do not think it is necessary to do more than read it. The program is menu driven and anyone conversant enough in both genealogy and computers to want to purchase the program should know what to do.

One undocumented improvement I found in the documentation deals with setting the printer's baud rate and disk drive stepping rate. On page six, the documentation says the default baud rate is 600. When it came up on my screen, the program defaulted to 2400 baud and a 6ms step rate on the disk drives. Also, provisions have now been made to change baud rates "on the fly".

One bug found: When I changed the baud rate to 9600, I just got garbage on my DMP-130A printer. I could not get anything to print until I rebooted the program and set the switch on the serial/parallel converter to 2400 baud. This is the first time in six years that I have touched the converter. I had no clue as to why this program did not print normally on my equipment, so I called the author and asked him. He said the problem was in a loop which ran the program at 2MHz and then cut to 1MHz for I/O functions. He said the problem had been corrected as soon as it was noticed and they are presently shipping only corrected copies.

Setting up the program: *Family Recorder* runs on two 35-track drives. That is all it can use. If you have ADOS, C-DOS, or some other DOS that allows double-sided 40- or 80-track drives, forget it. You will have to disable all the extra tracks to format a new disk and do a backup. While on the phone with the author, I asked if *Family Recorder* could be written to take advantage of larger disks. His answer was that the limitation was caused by the CoCo's limit of 32K for BASIC. The program could be used with a bigger BASIC or 512K BASIC (with minor changes), but it will most likely work okay for you as it is. The author has traced his father's side of the family back to the mid-1600's, and there is still a lot of room on a 35-track disk. The author is adding a note to the documentation that it is generally best to trace one side of a family per disk.

Using a "floppy" disk, you could put the husband's family on one side and the wife's family on the other. Different disks are used to record *persons*, *marriages*, and *indexes*. A large family could use up a box of disks.

Overall appearance: *Family Recorder* must be run on an 80-column monitor. On my CM-8, the screen comes up white with dark letters. I prefer light on dark because I feel that I get less radiation from a black screen. This is not optional on version 1.1 of *Family Recorder*.

It would be nice if there were a "CONFIG/BAS" program which would generate a "CONFIG/DAT" file to allow preset defaults to be loaded by *Family Recorder*. With a CONFIG/DAT file, one could customize not only the startup baud rate and stepping rate, but could turn on and off such things as sound and key click, select screen color and font, and do other personal things.

The input screens are laid out logically, but I was a bit distracted because there was nothing on the screen to signal that data would be input to a field or would be printed in that field. Instead of using a colon to show where the screen gets input or prints data, a colon is used to end all lines. For instance, on a portion of the PERSON screen, it may say:

Person's Father:
Record-number: 3
Name: BESHESSE, Solomon
Delbert

When you input your father's number (if previously defined) on line two, his name appears on line three. The first line gets no input and prints no data. The first line would look more like a title if it were indented a bit and followed by a hyphen or nothing. Maybe someone else would not find this distracting, but I do.

Special features: A very nice

Review cont'd, page 5

Review cont'd from page 4

feature of *Family Recorder* is the ability to get a hardcopy of any data screen. With the print-screen feature, you can easily and quickly hand out data sheets at family gatherings to verify information.

Menu selection #13 prints an information collection sheet. It gives an option of Tandy or Epson codes and does a nice job printing in bold. This not only makes it easy to read but it comes through clearly on a photocopy machine.

There is a chance for confusion for the person filling in the sheet because it is not clear where they are to put in information and where the genealogist enters his record numbers. If FARNA would put all record number entries in brackets [], it should be sufficient to put a note on the bottom of the page

saying, in effect, "Blanks enclosed in brackets, [like this], will be filled in by the genealogist". The person filling in the information sheet would not know the record numbers assigned to their grandparents, yet *FARNA Systems* wisely put a space for this information on the data collection sheet. With a note to eliminate the potential confusion, the form would be perfect.

Does the program work? It sure does, and at a great price. The suggestions I have made for possible improvement seem simple to me and I feel they would make the program better. They would not even change the feel of the program. Maybe I am just picking nits from my grits, but I think programmable defaults make everyone happier.

Final Note: For several years now I have wondered where I was going to find a program to trace my

own family's ancestry. Since my wife and I are both descended from the same Indian Tribe in Mississippi, I would like to find out just how closely our families are related. Well, the search for a program is over. I will use the information sheet to be gathering data and entering it on the CoCo 3. Since the present program is data compatible with the MS-DOS version, I am confident that when *FARNA Systems* ports *Family Recorder* to Basic09 (in the works), I will be able to continue using the same program and not lose my CoCo 3 generated data! \$24.95 + \$1.50 S&H. Requires CoCo 3, 2 drives, and 80-column monitor (RGB or Mono). *FARNA Systems*, 904 2nd Ave., Warner Robins, GA, 31098-1029, (912) 328-7859.

- Bernice E. Beshense

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Icon Basic09 can also be very useful in studying procedures and
programs written by others to learn how they operate. The package
contains a full set of icons...or you may edit or create icons using the
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ColorSystems

Quality OS-9 Software for your Color Computer 3 and the MM/1 from IMS

Variations of Solitaire - A game pack which includes **FIVE** variations of the popular one-person card game Solitaire! Includes **Pyramid** one of the most habit-forming, **Klondike**, the standard version of Solitaire, **Poker** which gamblers would enjoy, **Spider** were a single hand can take hours of play, and the popular gambling variation **Canfield**.

Game Pack - A game pack of **FIVE** popular board games adapted for your favorite computer! Includes **Othello**, **Yahtzee**, **KnightsBridge**, **Battleship**, and **Minefield**.

These two products come for both the Color Computer 3 with OS-9 Level 2 and at least 256K of memory or for the MM/1 from IMS. Color Computer version is \$34.95 and the MM/1 version is \$49.95. (Multi-View is NOT required for the Color Computer Version!)

WPSHel - This is an impressive tool which allows those who do a lot of Word Processing on their Color Computer 3 to put all of their favorite tools under a single point and click environment. Requires OS-9 Level 2, system support from the *WindInt* module which comes with *Multi-View* and at least 256K of memory. Mouse and Printer are optional but desirable. Only \$22.00!!

To Order Send a Check or Money Order to:

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North Carolina residents please include 6% sales tax. Shipping is free to the Continental US. For Alaska, Hawaii, Canada and Mexico, add \$3 per item. For all other locations, add \$5 per item. All non-US orders MUST be an International Postal Money Order in US Funds! Call or write today to request a FREE catalog!

UPGRADE National Diskletter! From: Mid Iowa & Country CoCo We are a national reachout!

Our "UPGRADE" newsletter mailed on Disk, has become a real hit with MAX III graphics accompanying articles. The articles from RSDOS Basic programming and hardware, to OS-9 by James Jones of Microware, dump to screen (TV, Mono or RGB) or printer. Sometimes with the news before the big mags, and editorials you will not see in the commercial magazine. With many user tips and ideas.

Our Power Packed Domain Library is purposely small relative to thousands available, because the few hundred disks there are carefully selected as "The Best Available!" Public Domain, Shareware, OS-9, & previously big named Orphanware programs.

We also have a "Christian Software Sub chapter". Which simply offers Christian oriented software and listings for those interested.

Where can you buy? Or sell that equipment you've just upgraded from? Your free ads will be in the middle of the community.

Be in touch for Middle America's Fest '93 in Des Moines, IA

Have you noticed the 3rd part market producers (i.e. support) dropping like flies in late fall? The shrinking Rainbow? The support of your CoCo is rapidly being left up to YOU! As third party decreases, belonging to a CoCo group is your only support. Radio Shack and a long list of magazines have folded in. If one more magazine folds, where will you look next month?

Our eight year record speaks very well to reaching out and serving members. A strong treasury assures confidence of delivery. Most members are out of town or out of state! Presently we have paid memberships in 23+ states and 3 provinces of Canada. Plus five clubs, and some dealers. Our 90% renewal rate says most all feel MI&CC is very worthwhile. Join up and see why, even user groups by vote, sign up with a paid membership!

Your membership will bring you all Newsletters, Library, Voting, and other privileges, for a year. (\$3 Sample disk)

Mid Iowa and Country CoCo (non profit group)

"Gathering the CoCo community!"

Do you want support tomorrow?

Then stay with a group that keeps you in touch!

Annual Membership \$16.00 US \$21.00 Canada

Say, "I saw it in **UpTime**" and receive...
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Terry Simons (MI&CC Treas.), 1328 48th St.
Des Moines, IA 50311 (515) 279-2576 after 8:00 PM

News Release! News Release! News Release!

Here's the five W's:

Who: Glenside CoCo Club of Illinois

What:: Second Annual "last" Chicago CoCoFest!

When: May 1st and 2nd, 1993

Where: Holiday Inn Elgin (a Holiday recreation center)
345 West River Road (a city block from I-90 & Illinois 31S)
Elgin, IL (18 minutes driving time from the
"fest" location of the 1980's)

Overnight room rate \$52 (plus 10% tax)

Call (708) 695-5000 for reservations.

Be sure to ask for the "Glenside" or "CoCoFest!" rates!

Why:

- to provide vendor support to the CoCo community
- to provide community support to the CoCo vendors
- to provide educational support to new users
- TO HAVE AN OUTRAGEOUSLY GOOD TIME!

And now the 'H' word, *how much?*

- admission will be \$10 at the door
- two day pass only (sorry, no one day passes!)
- advanced ticket sales, \$8 plus SASE or \$8 plus 50¢ P&H

Ticket Contact:

George Schneeweiss

RR2 Box 647

Forrest, IL 61741-2629

General or Exhibitor Contact:

Tony Podraza

119 Adobe Circle

Carpentersville, IL 60110-1101

Voice (708) 428-3576

BBS: (708) 428-0436

-or- Carl Boll

(Vice-President, GCCI)

(Glenside CoCo Club of IL)

Voice: (312) 735-6087

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- ➔ Optimize your floppies and hard drives quickly and easily! ➔ Includes utility to check file and directory fragmentation.
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Independent program
submissions welcome!

Optimize
UPTime
NINE TIMES

UpTime:

In each issue:

A monthly magazine for CoCo's and OSK machines.

- ➔ Find out about new products and upgrades for your favorite computers.
- ➔ Learn about what new technical breakthroughs are on the horizon.
- ➔ Discover what programs really can do and what they cannot.
- ➔ Published monthly in newsletter format.

One Year Subscription, two installments of \$7.50;

Canadian Orders, two installments of \$9.00; Foreign Orders, 2 X \$11.00

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Nine-Times:

In each issue:

The bi-monthly disk magazine for OS-9 Level 2.

- Helpful and useful programs
- C and Basic09 programming examples
- Hints, Help columns, and informative articles
- All graphic/joystick interface
- Can be used with a hard disk or ram disk

One Year Subscription, \$34.95;

Canadian Orders, add \$1.00, Foreign Orders, add \$8.00

Back-Issues:

From May 1989. Write for back issue contents.

\$7.00 each; Foreign Orders, add \$2.00 each

Bulk orders of six or more, \$5.00 each; Foreign Orders, add \$1.50 each

Magazine Source:

Full Basic09 code and documentation for the presentation shell used with Nine-Times.

\$25.95; Foreign Orders, add \$5.00

Technical Assistance & Inquiries:
(216)-758-7694

JWT Enterprises
5755 Lockwood Blvd.
Youngstown, OH 44512



Foreign postage excludes U.S. Territories and Canada. These products for OS-9 Level 2 on the CoCo 3. Sorry, no C.O.D.'s or credit cards; Foreign & Canadian orders, *please* use U.S. money orders. U.S. checks, allow 4 weeks for receipt of order. Ohio residents, please add 6% sales tax.

Liquidation sale!

Save big on CoCoPRO! closeouts! Min. order \$10. Add \$4 ship. Due to limited quantities (listed), orders will only be taken by telephone at **(313) 482-8128**, 10AM-6PM, M-F thru 3/15/93. First-come, first-served!

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Dear CoCo user,

We hope that you and yours had the happiest of holidays, and we join you in looking forward to a brand new year. Unfortunately, the outlook at CoCoPRO! is not as bright as we would hope. As many of you know, CoCoPRO! is a "mom & pop" business, solely operated by Nancy & myself (with the assistance of a part-time technician). Over the last three years, CoCoPRO! has been the only company in the world **dedicated solely to supporting the CoCo**. All of the other fine vendors in the marketplace over this period have either run their businesses part-time, or served other computer markets for their main source of income, while putting limited time into CoCo support. We believed strongly enough in the strength of the CoCo Community to devote full-time effort to supporting it, and depended on it solely for our livelihood.

During this time, we saw the dwindling support elsewhere, and channeled our energies and resources into both introducing several new products, as well as "picking up the slack", by making sure that many hardware and software products would continue to be available after being dropped by their original producers (such as Slotpaks, IBM Keyboard interfaces, etc.).

We also thought it to be quite important that national CoCo conferences continue to be held, and stepped into the void left by the discontinuance of the Rainbowfests by organizing and promoting the first three CoCofests (in conjunction with CoCo-supporting clubs). We are quite pleased that this resulted in a stronger feeling of self-sufficiency within the Community, by showing that large CoCo conventions **could** be successfully organized by smaller organizations and clubs; we are doubly pleased that this "new tradition" continues, with no less than **three** regional fests currently being organized by CoCo clubs for this year.

Unfortunately, it appears that the time has come for us to find another means with which to keep a roof over our heads. 1992 was a year of both personal and financial setbacks for us, and revenues for the holiday season, despite widespread promotion and deep discounting, were quite disappointing; medical bills, author royalties and other business debts are unpaid, and efforts to develop other part-time revenue sources so that we could continue to run CoCoPRO! as a full-time operation have not yet borne fruit. In short, **CoCoPRO! needs your help.**

Despite the tone of this letter thus far, we're **not** asking for charity however; we've devised a plan in which everyone wins. If we all pull together and make this work, all of our authors & other creditors will be paid, the CoCo Community will benefit, and **you** will be licensed to use **over \$400 worth of high-quality commercial software, including access to source code for many of the programs, for only \$34!**

Instead of just closing up shop, cutting our losses, and taking all our software with us (thus making it unavailable to those who could use and enjoy it, unless they chose to steal our property by making an illegal copy from a friend), we would prefer that it be made **freely distributable at a modest cost**. For those of you who have modems and use BBS services, you might recognize this form of distribution as "shareware", in which you may download and try a program, and in which you are expected to send the author a registration fee if you like and use the program. Shareware registrations usually run from \$10 to \$40 **per program**.

Unfortunately, studies have shown that less than 10% of the copies of shareware programs in use are ever registered and paid for. If we were to just release the 14 programs we own as shareware without advance licensing, it seems unlikely that this action would solve our current financial dilemmas. Hence, we propose a method which both **saves money for the license purchaser** (granting use of 14 programs for the price of one or two, if individually licensed) and ensures that we can solve our financial problem by actually receiving payment for these products that we invested both time and money in.

Here's the plan:

- We ask that you purchase at least **\$30** of software from the list provided, before **Feb. 28, 1993**.
- This purchase will **include** a license, subject to the restrictions listed below, to obtain and freely use **all 14 commercial packages** that we hold exclusive rights to, upon their release. This license will include personal use of the programs, as well as *documentation on disk* and *source code* where available.

- If over 33% of the CoCo users receiving this letter respond to this offer, then everyone wins, and the full collection of programs will be made available for download via password access to *Jim's CoCo Corner* BBS at (313) 292-4713, or via e-mail to your Delphi account. If over 40% respond, then the packages will be made freely available on major BBS' for download by all. **For those who do not own modems or those who would prefer** not to incur the downloading time and expense, you may order copies of the program packages via mail for a duplicating charge of **only \$1 per disk**, plus \$3 per order (no matter how many disks) for shipping & handling.
- If less than 33% of the CoCo users receiving this letter respond to this offer, then the programs unfortunately **will not** be released in this fashion, and all that you will receive is the software you paid for.

As you can see, if we all pitch in, we all can win. If enough of the Community responds, the *entire* Community can benefit by receiving well over \$400 worth of high-quality software for the price of one or two packages. However, if too many members of our community just "sit back and wait", hoping that enough *other* people take advantage of this incredible offer that they can get an even more incredible price (free), then no real benefit is gained by anyone.

Most of these software packages have received rave reviews from both Rainbow™ and those who have purchased them. And, for those who happen to have "borrowed" copies of one or more of these programs, this is an excellent opportunity to both receive the documentation (and in some cases, source code), as well as to gain legal use of those programs at an incredibly affordable price.

Our thanks to you both for your past patronage and for taking the time to read this. We hope that you will give strong consideration to our offer, for we truly believe that this is a proposition in which **everyone** can win. If you'd like to take advantage of this offer, please use this order form. Do note that the offer only includes new orders for the products listed on this order form; buy \$30 or more worth of these, and qualify to get **all** of them if enough people respond! Other products which we have offered in the past are not included in this offer... strictly the ones listed on the orderform (products which we own outright).

Keep on CoCoin'!

Dave Myers

Pres., CoCoPRO! Products

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Thanks for your support. And remember...if we all pitch in, we all can WIN!!!

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PIPELINE

ARK Systems recently announced their new **UD-Cache II** product for OSK. This disk cache increases overall disk accesses by two to three times and copying by five to twenty times—and is simple to install. Any RBF disk type is supported, and suggested memory size for the cache is 256K to 1M. *Requires 680x0 OS-9, \$99.00. From ARK Systems USA, P.O. Box 23, Santa Clara, CA 95052, (408) 224-5358.*

Other products include **XSCF**, a device manager which replaces the SCF manager and allows interactive editing of command lines without retyping along with past command recall. \$60.00.

LSRCDBG allows source

level debugging of C code and allows the debugger to be run on a separate screen from the application, eliminating overlapping debugger messages. \$50.00.

Disk Squeezer eliminates fragmentation and moves all file information to the initial portion of a disk. It also implements a safe algorithm that only works with a file at a time, eliminating a garbaged disk if the power fails during a "squeeze". \$295.00.

The **devTOOL** package contains 80 useful utilities which allow you to undelete files, edit disk sectors, look up error messages, dump physical memory, edit the INIT module, and more. \$370.00.

And lastly, **OS9MAX** is an *IBM program* which will read, write, and format OS-9 disks on any PC/AT using MS-DOS. \$550.00.

If you would like information about your "soon-to-be" products to appear in Pipeline, send information about the product as well as mailing address and telephone number to UpTime Pipelines at the regular mailing address.

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